

APPARATUS FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING CARGO AT SEA-SIDE
OF SHIP

Field of the Field

5 The present invention relates to an apparatus for loading or unloading cargo on or from a ship mooring at a quay wall of a harbor, and more particularly to an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship mooring at a quay wall, thereby enabling
10 cargo to be loaded or unloaded simultaneously at both sides of the container ship by both cargo-handling apparatuses at the sea-side and the land-side.

Background of the Invention

15 In general, marine transportation using a container ship is advantageous in that the marine transportation can carry more cargo and requires less cost in comparison with transportations by other transport means. Countries surrounded by the sea like the
20 Republic of Korea have been considerably dependent on the marine transportation in a trade with foreign countries.

Particularly, the marine transportation industry is
25 currently in pursuit of larger ships, in order to increase the quantity of cargo transported by each ship, thereby reducing physical distribution cost and securing economical efficiency. As a result, harbors are required to expand their facilities for mooring and
30 cargo-handling.

However, most harbors have linear quay walls and cargo-handling equipment such as cranes located only on the land. Therefore, cargo-handling has no choice but to
35 be performed only at one side of the a ship, that is,

only at a quay-side or land-side of a ship mooring at the quay wall.

5 In this case, the cargo-handling capability is proportional to the capacity and number of cranes which take part in the cargo-handling. However, it has been very difficult to expand the cargo-handling capability in the conventional harbors, since there is a limit to the number of cranes which can be simultaneously
10 operated at the same quay-wall in the conventional harbors, due to restriction to the space which can be occupied by combination of cargo-handling systems, movement lines of transport vehicles, etc.

15 Further, the time for which a ship stays at a quay wall is proportional to the size of the ship or the quantity of cargo carried by the ship. Therefore, larger ships deteriorate availability of a quay wall and increase the physical distribution cost.

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Objection of the Invention

Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above-mentioned problems, and it is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus which can
25 load or unload cargo at a sea-side of a ship mooring at a quay wall, thereby enabling cargo to be loaded or unloaded simultaneously at both sides of the container ship by both cargo-handling apparatuses at the sea-side and the land-side.

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It is another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship, which includes ballast tanks for rising and sinking a barge of the apparatus and
35 cushioning chambers under the ballast tanks for

effectively absorbing possible impact when the ballast tanks are settled on the seabed.

5 It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship, which has drawbridges each having length, inclination, and height, which can be freely adjusted according to the width of the container ship, the height of the quay wall, and the depth of the sea,
10 so that the drawbridges can be rapidly installed and used regardless of the surroundings.

Summary of the Invention

15 In order to accomplish these objects, there is provided an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship, the apparatus comprising: a barge having a mooring side corresponding to one side of the ship; a barge anchoring unit for anchoring and releasing the barge at and from a predetermined place;
20 at least one container crane disposed on an upper surface of the barge and being movable in a longitudinal direction of the barge; and at least one drawbridge for connecting an end of the mooring side of the barge to the quay wall.

25 Preferably, the barge anchoring unit comprises: a plurality of ballast tanks provided at a lower surface of the barge; and a pumping unit for filling and discharging seawater in and from the ballast tanks.

30 It is also preferred that each of the ballast tanks has a cushioning chamber disposed under the ballast tank.

More preferably, the drawbridge comprises: a bridge
35 deck connected between the quay wall and the barge, the

bridge deck having a first end connected to the barge in such a manner that the bridge deck can pivot up and down about the first end of the bridge deck; a support tower installed on the barge; and a deck holder assembly having a first end coupled to a side surface of the bridge deck and a second end fixed to an upper portion of the support tower, so as to fold and unfold the bridge deck into and from the barge.

10 The deck holder assembly may comprise: a cylinder hinged to the upper portion of the support tower; and a piston having a first end connected to the cylinder and a second end hinged to the side surface of the bridge deck.

15 The drawbridge may further comprise a wire fixedly connecting the upper portion of the support tower to the barge.

20 Preferably, the bridge deck has a second end opposite to the first end of the bridge deck, and the drawbridge further comprises a plurality of roller bearings provided under the second end of the bridge deck, the roller bearings being in contact with the quay wall to
25 connect the second end of the bridge deck to the quay wall when the drawbridge is unfolded.

The bridge deck may further comprise a strut installed at the second end of the bridge deck in contact with
30 the quay wall.

More preferably, the apparatus may further comprise a tugboat for tugging the barge to a location at which the mooring side of the barge is disposed adjacent to
35 the sea-side of the ship.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a top view of an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged partially-sectional view of a ballast tank shown in FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 is a detailed side view the apparatus shown in FIG. 1, which especially shows a drawbridge of the apparatus in more detail.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 1 is a top view of an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship according to the present invention, FIG. 2 is a sectional view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1, and FIG. 3 is an enlarged partially-sectional view of a ballast tank shown in FIG. 2.

As shown in FIGs. 1 to 3, an apparatus for loading and unloading cargo at a sea-side of a ship according to

the present invention includes a barge 10 having a mooring side 11 corresponding to one side of a container ship 70, a barge anchoring unit 20 for anchoring or releasing the barge 10 at or from a predetermined place, at least one container crane 30 disposed on an upper surface of the barge 10 and being movable in a longitudinal direction of the barge 10, and drawbridges 40 for connecting ends of the mooring side 11 of the barge 10 to the quay wall 50.

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Here, the barge anchoring unit 20, which anchors or releases the barge 10 at or from a predetermined position in the sea, includes a plurality of ballast tanks 21 provided at a lower surface of the barge 10 and a pumping unit 22 for filling or discharging seawater in or from the ballast tanks 21.

Further, the container cranes 30 are installed on a pair of rails 12 extending in a longitudinal direction on the upper surface of the barge 10. The container cranes 30 load or unload cargo while moving in the longitudinal direction along the rails 12.

Hereinafter, operating of the apparatus according to the present invention will be described.

1. Mooring and anchoring the barge at one side of a ship

First, when a container ship 70 has been moored at a quay wall 50 in a harbor, a barge 10 is tugged by a tugboat (not shown) so that a mooring side 11 of the barge 10 is disposed adjacent to a sea-side of the container ship 70. Then, the pumping unit 22 is operated to fill the ballast tanks 21 with seawater. As the weight of the barge 10 increases, the ballast

tanks 21 sink to the bottom of the sea. When the ballast tanks 21 have been seated on the bottom of the sea, the barge 10 is firmly anchored in place.

5 2. Loading and unloading cargo

When the barge 10 has been anchored in place in the manner described above, the drawbridge 40 mounted on the barge 10 is connected and firmly fixed to the quay wall 50. Then, cargo can be loaded or unloaded at both
10 sides of the container ship 70 simultaneously by both the cranes installed on the quay wall 50 and the cranes arranged on the barge 10.

Then, a trailer 80 loading cargo thereon can be driven
15 between the barge 10 and the quay wall 50 through the drawbridges 40 installed before the stem and after the stern of the container ship 70, to rapidly carry the cargo between them.

20 3. Separation after the cargo handling

When the cargo-handling has been completed, the drawbridge 40 is separated from the quay wall 50 and retracted into the barge 10. Then, the pumping unit 22 discharges seawater out of the ballast tanks 21,
25 thereby causing the barge 10 to rise.

Then, the barge 10 is tugged and moved by tugboats to another container ship or mooring site, which requires cargo handling.

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4. During idle time

During idle time, the barge 10 is moored at a quay wall or anchored at a predetermined location. When the weather is bad, for example, when it is windy, the
35 ballast tanks 21 are filled with seawater and

simultaneously the container cranes 30 are firmly fixed to the rails 12 of the barge 10, so that the barge 10 can be firmly held in place against wind.

5 As described above, an apparatus according to the present invention can load or unload cargo at a sea-side of a container ship mooring at a quay wall, thereby enabling cargo to be loaded or unloaded simultaneously at both sides, that is, sea-side and
10 land-side, of the container ship, more rapidly than in the prior art.

Herein, as shown in FIGs. 2 and 3, a predetermined location of the seabed in front of the quay wall 50, to
15 which the barge 10 is seated, may be subjected to a necessary processing and a flat rock-filled bed 60 may be then formed on the location, so that the ballast tanks 21 can be stably supported by the rock-filled bed 60 when the ballast tanks 21 have been seated in the
20 location.

Further, as shown in FIG. 3, a cushioning chamber 210 may be formed under the ballast tanks 21, to effectively absorb impact which may be applied to the
25 ballast tanks 21 when the ballast tanks 21 are settled on the seabed while the barge 10 is anchored.

FIG. 4 is a detailed side view the apparatus shown in FIG. 1, which especially shows a drawbridge of the
30 apparatus in more detail. As shown in FIG. 4, a bridge deck 41 of the drawbridge 40 is laid between the quay wall 50 and the barge 10, is fixed to the barge 10 through a coupling member 43, and is connected with a deck holder assembly 44. The deck holder assembly 44
35 is telescopically fixed to a support tower 45 installed

on the barge 10 and thus has an adjustable length.

The coupling member 43 installed between the barge 10 and one end of the bridge deck 41 allows the bridge
5 deck 41 to be pivoted up and down by the deck holder assembly 44. Herein, a typical coupling means such as a ball joint may be employed as the coupling member 43.

As a result, even when the quay wall 50 is not level
10 with the barge 10 due to various reasons such as variances in the height of the quay wall 50 and the depth of the sea, the bridge deck 41 can be easily installed to connect the barge 10 and the quay wall 50 with each other.

Moreover, a plurality of roller bearings 42 disposed
15 under the other end of the bridge deck 41 enable the bridge deck 41 to smoothly perform its original function regardless of change in the distance between
20 the quay wall 50 and the barge 10 due to variance in the width of each container ship 70.

Here, the deck holder assembly 44 includes a cylinder
25 440 and a piston 441. The cylinder 440 is hinged to an upper portion of the support tower 45, and the piston 441 is connected to the cylinder and hinged to one side surface of the bridge deck 41. Therefore, the cylinder 440 and the piston 441 of the deck holder assembly 44 can fold and unfold the bridge deck 41 from and into
30 the barge 10. When the bridge deck 41 is unfolded between the quay wall 50 and the barge 10, the bridge deck 41 is supported between the quay wall 50 and the barge 10.

35 When the cylinder 440 is operated, the bridge deck 41

is pivoted about the coupling member 43 to enable the height of the bridge deck 41 to be automatically adjusted.

- 5 The support tower 45 must be firmly fixed to the barge
10 so that the support tower 45 can support the weight
of the bridge deck 41 while the cylinder 440 operates.
To this end, a wire 46 having a strong tensile strength
is connected between the upper portion of the support
10 tower 45 and a portion of the barge located on the side
opposite to the cylinder 440.

- The bridge deck 41 has one end fixed to the barge 10 by
the rotatable coupling member 43. The other end of the
15 bridge deck 41 seated on the quay wall 50 is provided
with a strut 47.

- The strut 47 can prevent wheels of vehicles passing the
bridge deck 41 from being caught by a stepped portion
20 formed due to the thickness of the bridge deck 41,
thereby allowing the vehicles to pass the bridge deck
41 more rapidly and smoothly.

Industrial Applicability

- 25 As can be seen from the foregoing, an apparatus
according to the present invention can load or unload
cargo at a sea-side of a container ship mooring at a
quay wall, thereby enabling cargo to be loaded or
unloaded simultaneously at both sides of the container
30 ship by both cargo-handling apparatuses at the sea-side
and the land-side. As a result, the present invention
can significantly improve cargo-handling capability of
a harbor in comparison with that by the prior art.

- 35 Further, an apparatus according to the present

invention can reduce the time for which a ship stays at a quay wall, thereby improving availability of the quay wall and decreasing the physical distribution cost.

5 Moreover, an apparatus according to the present invention may further have a cushioning chamber disposed under each ballast tank, which can effectively absorb possible impact and prevent breakage of the ballast tanks when the ballast tanks are settled on the
10 seabed.

In addition, an apparatus according to the present invention has drawbridges each having length, inclination, and height, which can be freely adjusted
15 according to the width of the container ship, the height of the quay wall, and the depth of the sea, so that the drawbridges can be rapidly installed and used regardless of the surroundings, thereby further reducing the time for which a ship stays at a quay
20 wall.

While this invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be
25 understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiment and the drawings, but, on the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and variations within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

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